

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-20 RSC-01 L-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-04 DRC-01 /065 W

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R 141102Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5634

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 16165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GE, WB

SUBJECT: GDR REPORTEDLY SOURCE OF LEAK ON SCHIDT-HONECKER EXCHANGE

REF: BONN 16163

1. USUALLY RELIABLE CONTACTS TOLD US THAT THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK TO "DIE WELT" ABOUT THE SCHMIDT-HONECKER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS IN SEPTEMBER (REFTEL, PARA 8) WAS A QUASI-OFFICIAL EAST GERMAN, PROFESSOR BERTSCH OF THE GDR INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. BERTSCH WAS REPORTEDLY IN TOUCH WITH SOME SPRINGER PRESS PEOPLE IN EAST BERLIN EARLY IN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 1 TO PASS ALONG THE STORY. SINCE THE SPRINGER PRESS COULD NOT CHECK THE STORY IN BERLIN, IT REFERRED IT TO BONN WHERE THE LOCAL WELT CORRESPONDENT MADE SOME SOUNDINGS WITH THE SOVIETS. THE LATTER DID NOT CONFIRM THE STORY BUT WERE SIMPLY NON-COMMITTAL. THEY ARE NOW QUITE IRRITATED, OUR SOURCE REPORTS, THAT THE CHANCELLERY HAS BLAMED THEM FOR THE LEAK.

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2. COMMENT: IF THE ABOVE IS CORRECT, IT TENDS TO

CONFIRM THE FRG IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT THE GDR WAS
TRYING TO PUT ACROSS TO THE SOVIETS, PRIOR TO
BREZHNEV'S OCTOBER 7 VISIT TO EAST BERLIN, THE POINT
THAT THERE WAS MOVEMENT IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS AND THAT
FURTHER SOVIET PRESSURE ON THE EAST GERMANS IN THIS
DIRECTION WAS UNNECESSARY.

HILLENBRAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 OCT 1974
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